

Respect ourselves and others
Embrace individuality
Celebrate culture and diversity
Inspire a love of learning.

Newsletter

15th February 2019



Mrs Evan's Head Lines

Well that was a busy first half term!

It certainly has been a school and children's awards season! These include:

- the school gaining the Silver ArtsMark award from The Arts Council, on the quality of our work in The Arts
- the choir performing at the O2 Arena
- winning 3 out of the 4 awards at the final of the Junior School Writing Awards
- qualifying for indoor Sports final
- coming in silver position in the Year 5 Maths Challenge
- Mr Willard being in the Comet Sports Award final in the 'Coach of the Year' category (our House Captains wrote the application!).

So next half term we await the results of the next stage of these competitions and wish all our staff and pupils - Good Luck, make yourself, your family and your school proud!

I hope you were able to join us for the Open Afternoon on Thursday to also celebrate all your child's successes this half term and catch up with Mrs Willans and Mrs Inman who were holding a Parent Forum and Parent information reading session.

Finally the posts have started on the Official School FaceBook page. Please use it responsibly and we ask that concerns are not aired on social media but are shared with school staff directly. We are trying to teach the children good eSafety skills (this week we have had a focus on Internet Safety day - you might have heard you child sing the song? !). It does help if all the important adults in their life model safe and appropriate use of it.

Have a safe and enjoyable half term, Rising Stars are running a Gymnastic and Trampolining Day on Tuesday 19th February, children from Pixmore and Hillshott are offered a reduced rate. To book your child's place please call Rising Stars on 01462 790152 or via www.risingstars_online.co.uk

Remember School resumes on Monday 25th February 2019



School Governors

Thank you to the great response we received for the Governor elections – Congratulations and welcome to Sarah Carlson who received the most votes in the elections and join the Governing Body as elected Parent Governor.

Dave Wright and Vilborg Sigurdardottir were also invited by the governors to take up positions as associate governors, and again I am delighted that they have both accepted. We hope that their skills will bring insight and enhance our already hard working governing body.



Attendance

Firstly, well done to all the children who have managed to maintain 100% attendance this half term, a tricky half term as there are often lots of viruses and illnesses at this time of year. It's good to see that parents are sending children in too even you are in doubt about whether to keep the child off. Staff will keep an eye on your child and call you if we feel they are starting to flag! If you would like the school to keep and administer emergency, cough & throat medication and/or calpol, a medical form must be completed by the parent/carer at the school office and **any medication should be brought to the school office and collected by an adult only.**

Lateness has decreased slightly but there are still some core children/families that seem to forget the time! The lighter mornings are coming so this should help!

It is advisable you aim for your child to arrive at school no later than 8.50am, giving them enough time to get in to class on time, registration starts at 8.55am.

If your child arrives after this time they need to come through the School Office and sign in so we know they have arrived safely at school (on site for health and safety reasons) and to give their dinner choice.

School registers are monitored regularly and if your child is late or absent from school often you will be invited into school for a meeting with myself (Mrs Alex Evans) and the School Improvement Officer.



Writing Awards

A local partnership of Junior Schools celebrated the writing successes of their pupils on Friday night at the first 'Junior School Partnership Writing Awards'. The awards were the result of a 3-week long writing project based on the wordless picture book 'Journey' by Aaron Becker. The project, which first started last year at Pixmore Junior School, was rolled out across the 5 junior schools this year with the sole aim of engaging and enthusing children to write.

The junior schools have worked together to share good practice with the aim of raising standards in writing. As a way of promoting writing and celebrating the pupil's work during the project, the partnership, which included Pixmore Junior School (Letchworth), Almond Hill Junior School (Stevenage), The Grange Academy (Letchworth), Woolenwick Junior School (Stevenage) and St Mary's Junior School (Baldock) held the celebration evening at the Icknield Centre in Letchworth with funding from the Follett Trust and support from the Letchworth Heritage Foundation.

Pupils and their parents were invited to attend the awards where schools nominated pupils for particular awards including an Endeavour Award and a Progress Award. Schools also shortlisted pupils from each year group for the Best Writer Awards. An overall winner was chosen per year group by the Chairs of Governors from all 5 schools.

Pixmore Junior School came away with 3 of the overall best writer awards this year. Jack Sowden, a Year 3 pupil from Pixmore, won the overall Year 3 Best Writer award alongside his fellow pupils, Isabella Burniston (Year 4) and Alice Turner-Vincent (Year 6). Alice Maloney, a Year 5 pupil from Almond Hill, took home the Best Writer for Year 5.



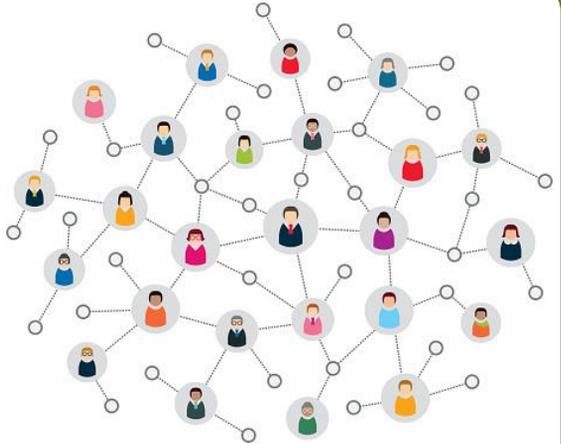
SENCO Surgery

In response to the increasing demand for appointments with our support teams and SENCo, we are trialling the launch of a 'SENCo Surgery'. This will provide an opportunity to drop into the school to discuss any worries or concerns you may have regarding your child's needs in any area with Mrs Willans, Mrs Kennedy (Family Support Worker) and Mrs Hector (Key Worker). Please complete the attached form, or email the SENCo, Mrs Sue Willans at

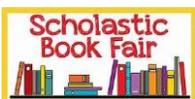
suewillans@pixmore.herts.sch.uk if you would

like an appointment. Each appointment will last

for 15 minutes. If you are already in regular contact with Mrs Willans, Mrs Kennedy or Mrs Hector, this contact will not be replaced by the surgery time. We are planning to run surgeries twice every half term if they are well attended. The first SENCo Surgery will be held on **Thursday 14th March from 1:15-3:15 p.m.**



Please join Mrs Kennedy, or Family Support Worker and Mrs Willans, our SENCo for the Parent Forum on **Tuesday 21st March from 9:15 to 10:15** in the school hall. Refreshments will be served - all welcome.



Book Fair

Don't forget our Book Fair on Thursday 7th March and Friday 8th March. 3.20-4.00pm. World Book Day will be on 7th March and all pupils will receive a £1 book voucher that can be redeemed at our fair against a book. The simple, secure way to ensure your child gets the books they want when the Book Fair arrives and are perfect if you can't make it to the Book Fair. Even better, you'll save 20% when you buy online meaning a £12 voucher costs only £10, a £6 voucher costs only £5 and so on. Please visit Scholastic Book Fair website at <https://bookfairs.scholastic.co.uk/gift-vouchers>



School Council



**COMIC
RELIEF**

Comic Relief will be on 15th March and we will be raising money in various ways, we will be in competition with other schools to create the longest 'Penny Mile' with pennies or other coins, please help by sending in your loose change to the school office from Monday 25th February in preparation for the big layout on the 15th March. We will also be selling Comic Relief items, prices start from £1. We are being supported with both items and the 'Penny Mile' by Letchworth Sainsbury's.

On Friday 15th March, pupils can wear non-uniform (something RED) for a donation of 50p.



Garden House Hospice

After February half term we will again be supporting the Garden House Hospice Easter appeal by selling chocolate filled Bunnies and Chicks at a cost of £1.00 each. Our school councillors will be selling them in the classrooms or you will be able to purchase from the school office.



PSA

The Pixmore PSA would like to warmly thank all the parents, carers and relatives who helped us raise over £2500 since September.

Along with funds from 2017/18, the PSA was able to help the school buy 2 more interactive white boards for the classroom (£2500 each).

Another £200 was approved for science equipment.

This money is raised through the events organised by the PSA (bingo, fair, movie night, raffles, discos, BBQ, etc...). So please keep coming to our events, have fun and raise money for the school. Thank you!

Don't forget we have a Year 3 & 4 Film Night on Thursday 28th February, 4pm-6.15pm.

Tickets are on sale from the school office at a price of £4, which includes Hot Dog, Popcorn, Ice Cream and a Drink.



Arts Week

Arts Week – we will be working with the artist, Kirke Reeva, who will be showing the children how to weave and crochet with plastic!! So we need - plastic bottles - plastic bottle lids - plastic bags and plastic straws by May, so please help us by collecting and bringing to Mrs Thomas.

Pix Sport

Indoor Athletics

Well done to the Boys and Girls Indoor Athletics team on winning Heat B and qualifying for the finals on Tuesday 26th Feb. The performance from both teams was outstanding, with the boys and girls finishing 1st in all events except one which they finished 2nd in!! No doubt the team will be looking forward to the finals.



Netball Match

Last week three netball teams played away at St Francis. It was lovely to see the strength and depth of all the children taking part with three very even matches. With a large number of children playing in their first match for the school! Well done to everyone who took part.

Girls Football Tournament

The girls football team went to St Johns in Baldock this week to play in our district football tournament. They were fantastic again, narrowly missing out on the final on goals scored by one goal!! They went the whole tournament unbeaten eventually finishing 3rd overall. Well done girls.



Speed Stack

Very proud of the boys and girls speed stack team who did the school proud at the area speed stacking finals. Both the boys and girls teams won their competition and will now go and represent North Herts at the county finals! Lovely to see so many new children represent the school for the first time ending with a gold medal. Well done guys.

Outside of School Sporting Achievement

Congratulations to Welwyn Wheeler, Elise Whitaker of 6B, who took 3rd on the podium in the Central Cyclocross League's U12 Girls competition. After a long, cold and muddy season, Elise cemented her position with 2nd and 1st places among the affiliated riders in the final two rounds. It's been a great cyclocross season for Elise, who also came 3rd U12G in the Eastern and Central Leagues Regional Championships as well as winning the Welwyn Wheelers U12G Club Championships in November. Fantastic riding Elise!





Regular Reminders



Parking

- Please remember that the school is located in a residential area.
- Park considerately. Do not block driveways or park on yellow lines.
- Do not leave other children in the car whilst you pick up your child(ren.)
- Please do not drive into school grounds at any time unless you have received a permit from school to do so.
- Think about parking at St Paul's Church on Pixmore Way, or the Methodist Church on Norton Way South. The school has arrangements with both churches to allow safe "park and walk" at drop-off and pick up times.



Clubs

- Please wait to pick up your children from clubs by the Year 6 door.
- Club leaders will always check that children are collected and arrangements checked so we know who has been picked up.
- We will always keep children safe in school until picked up by a parent/carer. If parents are not there to collect at the expected time, or at an agreed meeting point, children are to come back into school, where they will be safe.
- Please check Parentmail and your mobile phone (if you have registered for our text messages) as we will send club cancellation messages through these.



School Office

- The school office opens at 8.00 AM and remains open until 4.30 PM.
- The office gets very busy at the beginning and ends of the school day, so messages may go to the answerphone as the office staff are dealing with face-to-face enquiries.
- You can contact the school office to report absences by email at admin@pixmore.herts.sch.uk, by phone on 01462 620 555 or via the Absence Report on ParentMail



School Meals

- School meals costs £2.50 a day or £12.50 a week.
- Payment should be made before or on the morning of your child taking a meal.
- If your child holds a debt of £5.00 or more, we will not be able to provide any further meals until the debt is cleared in full, and any further meals paid for in advance of receiving. Note you will be required to provide a Home Packed Lunch until the debt is cleared.
- If you think you may be eligible for Free School Meals, please apply online via www.hertfordshire.org.uk or talk to Mrs Jarvis in confidence who will help with your application.

Ways to contact us



Pixmore Junior School, Rushby Mead,
Letchworth Garden City, SG6 1RS



admin@pixmore.herts.sch.uk



01462 620555



<http://www.pixmore.herts.sch.uk/>



Dates for your diary

*Year Group Assemblies

These taken place on **Thursdays at 9.30am** and parents and carers are welcome.

Please wait on the Year 6 playground at the back of the school and once the year group is ready you will be invited in. Please also exit the same way. Pushchairs can be left at the back of the hall.

We have tried to put in assemblies across the term and we will stick to these as much as possible

Academic Year 2018-19

SPRING TERM 2019

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 18-22/02/19 | - | HALF TERM |
| 26/02/19 | - | Highfield performance |
| 28/02/19 | - | PSA Event: Year 3 & 4 Film Night |
| 07/03/19 | - | World Book Day |
| 07/03/19 | - | Year 6 Assembly |
| 07-08/03/19 | - | Book Fair |
| 15/03/19 | - | Comic Relief – pupils non-uniform day, 50p donation, remember to wear something RED for a 50p donation |
| | | Comic Relief inter-schools competition – Penny Mile or more! Bring in all your loose change to help us win. Supported by Sainsbury's. |
| 21/03/19 | - | Year 3 Assembly |
| 21/03/19 | - | Year 6 Mayan Workshop/Day |
| 26/03/19 | - | Year 4 Easter Journey – St Paul's Church |
| 29/03/19 | - | Long School Reports sent home |
| 02/04/19 | - | Parent / Teacher Consultations – 3.30-7.00pm |
| 05/04/19 | - | PSA Event: Easter Raffle |
| 05/04/19 | - | Last Day of Term – Normal Finish at 3.15pm |

SUMMER TERM 2019

| | | |
|-------------|---|---|
| 23/04/19 | - | Children return to School |
| 26/04/19 | - | Year 5 Whipsnade Zoo |
| 06/05/19 | - | BANK Holiday (School Closed) |
| 13-17/05/19 | - | SATs week |
| 17/05/19 | - | PSA Event: Sponsored Bounce |
| 21/05/19 | - | School Group Photographs |
| 27-31/05/19 | - | HALF TERM |
| 03/06/19 | - | PSA Event: Quiz Night at the Cultivo Lounge |
| 06/06/19 | - | PSA Event: Summer Disco |
| 24-28/06/19 | - | Year 6 Residential Trip to Butlins, Skegness |
| 04-05/07/19 | - | Year 4 Camping Stay |
| 03/06/19 | - | Year 5 Cycling Proficiency – limited places |
| 12/07/19 | - | PSA Event: Summer BBQ |
| 19/07/19 | - | Last Day of Term – Early Finish at 2pm |
| 22/07/19 | - | OCCASIONAL Day (School Closed) |
| 23-24/07/19 | - | INSET Days (School Closed) |